

Amendments in the Claims: (struck-through parts deleted and underlined parts added)

1. (currently amended) A tool for cracking crabs, said tool comprising:
a base having a top surface, a bottom surface, a pair of end edges and a pair of
5 side edges, said base comprising a water buoyant material;
a cracking member, said base having a cracking member storage well extending
into one of said end edges for selectively receiving said cracking member,
said well being positioned between said top surface and said bottom
surface, said cracking member comprising a plate, said plate including an
10 upper edge and a lower edge, wherein a crab may be cracked upon said
upper; and
a coupler being attached to said top surface for selectively attaching said bottom
edge of said cracking member to said base such that said cracking member
extends upwardly from said base.

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2. (original) The tool of claim 1, wherein said top and bottom surfaces each
having a generally rectangular shape, each of said end edges having a length generally
between 8 inches and 12 inches, each of said side edges having a length generally
between 8 inches and 12 inches.

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Claim 3 (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) The tool of claim 1, ~~wherein said cracking member~~
~~includes a plate having an upper edge and a lower edge,~~ further including a flange being
25 attached to and extending along a length of said lower edge, said flange being orientated
generally perpendicular to a plane of said plate, said flange having oppositely positioned
edge extending in opposite directions with respect to said plane of said plate.

5. (previously presented) The tool of claim 4, wherein said coupler includes a
30 raised section generally extending between said end edges of said top surface, said raised
section having a slot extending through a length thereof, said slot having a horizontal

portion and a vertical portion extending away from the horizontal portion and upwardly through an upper side of said raised surface, wherein said flange may be removably extended into said horizontal portion such that said plate extends upwardly through said vertical portion.

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6. (original) The tool of claim 1, further including a plurality of feet being attached to said bottom surface.

7. (original) The tool of claim 6, wherein each of said feet are elongated and each generally extends between said end edges of said base.

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Claims 8-10 (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) A tool for cracking crabs, said tool comprising:
a base having a top surface, a bottom surface, a pair of end edges and a pair of side edges, said top and bottom surfaces each having a generally rectangular shape, each of said end edges having a length generally between 8 inches and 12 inches, each of said side edges having a length generally between 8 inches and 12 inches, said base comprising a water buoyant material;
a cracking member includes a plate having an upper edge and a lower edge, a flange being attached to and extending along a length of said lower edge, said flange being orientated generally perpendicular to a plane of said plate, said flange extending in opposite directions with respect to said plane of said plate;
a coupler being attached to said top surface for selectively attaching said cracking member to said base such that said cracking member extends upwardly from said base, said coupler being generally positioned in a central area of said top surface, said coupler including a raised section generally extending between said end edges of said top surface, said raised section having a slot extending through a length thereof, said slot having a

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horizontal portion and a vertical portion extending away from the horizontal portion and upwardly through an upper side of said raised surface, wherein said flange may be removably extended into said horizontal portion such that said plate extends upwardly through said vertical portion;

a plurality of feet being attached to said bottom surface, each of said feet being elongated and generally extending between said end edges of said base; and

a cracking member storage well extending into one of said end edges, said well having a size and shape for selectively receiving said cracking member in a stored position.

12. (previously presented) The tool of claim 1, wherein said water buoyant material is a wood material.

Claims 13-23 (cancelled)

24. (new) A tool for cracking crabs, said tool comprising:

a base having a top surface, a bottom surface, a pair of end edges and a pair of side edges, said base comprising a water buoyant material;

a cracking member, said base having a cracking member storage well extending into one of said end edges for selectively receiving said cracking member, said well being positioned between said top surface and said bottom surface, said cracking member including a plate having an upper edge and a lower edge, a flange being attached to and extending along a length of said lower edge, said flange being orientated generally perpendicular to a plane of said plate, said flange having oppositely positioned edge extending in opposite directions with respect to said plane of said plate; and

a coupler being attached to said top surface for selectively attaching said cracking member to said base such that said cracking member extends upwardly

from said base, said coupler including a raised section generally extending between said end edges of said top surface, said raised section having a slot extending through a length thereof, said slot having a horizontal portion and a vertical portion extending away from the horizontal portion and upwardly through an upper side of said raised surface, wherein said flange may be removably extended into said horizontal portion such that said plate extends upwardly through said vertical portion.

25. (new) The tool of claim 24, further including a plurality of feet being attached to said bottom surface.

26. (new) The tool of claim 25, wherein each of said feet are elongated and each generally extends between said end edges of said base.